

County Councilman David Marks

Fifth District Newsletter

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MESSAGE FROM COUNCILMAN MARKS: **REFORMING AND IMPROVING COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

Since my election to the County Council, I have supported several initiatives to reform county government. Some have passed, such as [a tougher ethics package that restricts gifts to officials](#), as well as legislation that puts proposed regulations and developments on-line. Other reforms, like term limits, have not been as successful.

In late January, [Baltimore County Executive John Olszewski unveiled a package of reforms](#) that deserve full consideration by the County Council. Among other initiatives, the administration is proposing to create an Office of Ethics and Accountability to investigate claims of fraud and abuse, and to better disclose and clarify lobbying registrations.

The most sweeping legislation would create a public financing option for county campaigns, similar to the state system that candidates—such as Governor Larry Hogan—have used in their races. Under this voluntary system, candidates would receive matching funds for



the amounts they raise from small donors. The County Council could not authorize such a system without a change to the county charter. I support giving the voters the opportunity to decide this matter in the 2020 elections.

Councilman David Marks

TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAM PILOT TO BEGIN IN 2019

[County Executive Olszewski and Councilman Marks are partnering on a traffic calming pilot program.](#) Under the initiative, seven digital speed signs—one per Council district—will be installed to warn motorists of their speed. These type of signs have been used elsewhere. Routes such as Regester Avenue, Stevenson Lane, and Forge and Klausmier Roads are logical places for these signs since speed bumps cannot be easily placed on these corridors.



EL SALTO COMING TO RENOVATED PERRY HALL SQUARE

Renovations will begin imminently at the Perry Hall Square Shopping Center, likely as soon as weather allows. Atlantic Realty Companies is investing at least \$2 million to upgrade the 55-year-old shopping center, the oldest in Perry Hall.

Additionally, El Salto restaurant has signed a lease to occupy space at the shopping center, one of several new tenants expected at the retail center. This location is in addition to its other local restaurant in Satyr Hill.

In 2012, Councilman Marks passed legislation that created the Perry Hall commercial revitalization district. Since then, [businesses such as the Perry Hall Animal Hospital](#) have taken advantage of incentives offered through the district. New landscaping has been added, and the derelict Regester Square property has been redeveloped.

SPACE INCLUDED FOR POLICE SUBSTATION IN FITCH AVENUE PROJECT

The developer of a commercial project in the Fullerton area will dedicate space for a police substation. SAFStor, Inc., will allocate room in its facility where police can hold meetings and conduct business. Additionally, the building will have three storage units that a local charitable organization can use to store materials for the homeless. The project is expected to open in late 2020 at 4101 and 4105 Fitch Avenue.

CARVER HIGH SCHOOL TRACK LIT FOR COMMUNITY USE

The Carver High School track will be lit on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. for community use,

extending until Tuesday, March 5th. This will allow walkers and joggers to use the track during darker evening hours.

COMMITTEE TO CREATE PUBLIC ART IN DOWNTOWN TOWSON

Councilman Marks is partnering with the Towson Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Baltimore County, and other stakeholders to advance more public art in Downtown Towson. The co-chairs of this project are local artist Amy Redondo and community leader David Riley. To learn more about this initiative, visit the Towson Creative Partnership on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Towson-Creative-Partnership-948383665360577/>

CELEBRATE TWO MILESTONES IN PERRY HALL

Nearly ten years ago—on the same day—Baltimore County dedicated Indian Rock Park and opened the new Perry Hall library.

Councilman Marks will lead a clean-up of Indian Rock Park on Saturday, March 2nd at 8:30 p.m., meeting at Perry Hall High School. Meanwhile, [the library will celebrate its anniversary with a day of special events on Saturday, March 9th](#). The program starts at 10:30 a.m.



Groundbreaking for the Perry Hall library in spring 2008.